



The Old Ironsides Report

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Baghdad Police Academy graduates 'Class of Freedom'

**Story and photos by
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BAGHDAD, Iraq – Security for the residents of Baghdad passed another milestone as the first class of 96 Iraqi policemen graduated from a three-week training course at the Baghdad Public Safety Academy, July 16.

The Iraqi police participated in a Transition Integration Program.

Called the "Class of Freedom," the Iraqi policemen were given graduation certificates by Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, chief administrator of the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA).

"You must overcome the distrust of Iraqis toward officers and officials in this state," Bremer told the graduates. "In the old regime, the secret police, Ba'ath party loyalists, the Fedayeen, and all the thugs that worked for the former regime, have scarred this country and its people," he said.

"You have to show your fellow citizens that you have broken with this terrible past."

The purpose of the program is to introduce and improve human rights, democratic policing principles and modern policing techniques for the Iraqi police. The course covered 38 subjects of law enforcement that focused on international standards for human rights, procedures, and laws of arrest and detention.

Much of the curriculum and the classroom training was developed and presented by U.S. Army military police officers of the 382nd MP Detachment, an Army Reserve unit out of San Diego, Calif. The 382nd is attached to V Corp's 18th MP Brigade, based in Germany.

The program focuses on international standards for human rights, modern police patrol procedures and techniques and applicable Iraqi criminal laws, procedures and laws of arrest and detention.

"The new (newly retrained) police better understand the rights of humanity and justice and freedom," said, Baghdad police officer Brig. Gen. Ahmid Ibrahim,



Baghdad police Brig. Gen. Ahmid Ibrahim, dean of the Baghdad Public Safety Academy, presents a gift to Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, chief administrator of the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority, during a graduation ceremony held at the Baghdad Public Safety Academy July 16.

dean of the Baghdad Public Safety Academy. "Police in any country have a very important role to play," said Bremer. "In Iraq, a country that is emerging from totalitarian rule, the role of police is crucial."

The students of this first cycle are police officers who have served for several years.

This new wave of "retrained" officers must set the path for a new police force, one that is just and free of corruption, Bremmer said.

There are approximately 8,000 police officers in the city of Baghdad, a city with a population of five million.

The next retraining class starts July 26 and is expected to have 200 students.

Classes will continue until all 8,000 police officers have been retrained, with emphasis on human rights, including women's rights, and modern police procedures and techniques.

Spc. Kristopher Joseph, 18th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs Office, contributed to this article.

NEWS

White House Shows Declassified Iraq Info

WASHINGTON (AP) - An intelligence assessment last October cites "compelling evidence" that Saddam Hussein was attempting to reconstitute a nuclear-weapons program, according to documents released Friday by the White House. Mounting a campaign to counter criticism that it used flawed intelligence to justify war with Iraq, the White House made public excerpts of the intelligence community's October 2002 National Intelligence Estimate. That report helped shape now-challenged comments by President Bush in his State of the Union address that Iraq was attempting to buy uranium in Africa.

New Tape Likely Contains Saddam's Voice

WASHINGTON (AP) - A new audio recording purportedly of Saddam Hussein is probably authentic and was likely recorded recently, a U.S. intelligence official said Friday. The finding is further evidence that Saddam survived the war. The poor quality of the recording prevents technical analysts from being absolutely certain of its authenticity, the official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity. But references to recent events suggest it is a recent recording, this official said.

Official: N. Korea Poses Nuclear Threat

VIENNA, Austria (AP) - North Korea poses the "most immediate and most serious threat" to world efforts to control the spread of nuclear weapons, the chief of the U.N. atomic agency warned Friday. Mohamed ElBaradei, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said he was concerned about reports that Pyongyang is reprocessing fuel rods.

Chaplain's thought for the day: Rooted Together

The huge Redwood trees in California are considered the largest things on earth and the tallest trees in the world. One would think that trees so large would have a tremendous root system reaching down hundreds of feet into the earth. The redwoods actually have a very shallow system of roots, but they all intertwine. When the storms come or the winds blow, the redwoods stand. They are locked to each other. They don't stand alone....

-Robert J. Morgan

We have a need to be intertwined. We have a need to work together. We have a need to support and protect one another. Especially, we have a need to be intertwined to God our source of help at all times.

"God is our refuge and strength a very present help in trouble." (Psalms 46:1).

SPORTS

Armstrong suffers setback

CAP'DECOUCVERTE, France (AP) -- Suffering under a scorching sun, Lance Armstrong couldn't keep up with a key rival on a vital stage of the Tour de France leading to the demanding Pyrenees mountains and barely hung on to his overall lead.

Armstrong finished second in the individual time trial, losing more than a minute and a half to German cycling powerhouse Jan Ullrich. The 29-year-old Team Bianchi rider won the stage in an impressive 58 minutes, 32 seconds. Armstrong was 1 minute, 36 seconds behind him.

In other news...

French Government Bans Term 'E-Mail'

By JAMEY KEATEN, Associated Press Writer
PARIS (AP) -- Goodbye "e-mail," the French government says, and hello "courriel" - the term that linguistically sensitive France is now using to refer to electronic mail in official documents.

The Culture Ministry has announced a ban on the use of "e-mail" in all government ministries, documents, publications or Web sites, the latest step to stem an incursion of English words into the French lexicon.

The ministry's General Commission on Terminology and Neology insists Internet surfers in France are broadly using the term "courrier electronique" (electronic mail) instead of e-mail - a claim some industry experts dispute. "Courriel" is a fusion of the two words.

"Evocative, with a very French sound, the word 'courriel' is broadly used in the press and competes advantageously with the borrowed 'mail' in English," the commission has ruled.

The move to ban "e-mail" was announced last week after the decision was published in the official government register on June 20. Courriel is a term that has often been used in French-speaking Quebec, the commission said.

The 7-year-old commission has links to the Academie Francaise, the prestigious institution that has been one of the top opponents of allowing English terms to seep into French.

TODAY'S WEATHER

High: 109F

Low: 81F

